

NOVEMBER



Welcome

Welcome to St John's Locks Heath. Despite the difficulties of the current times, we aim to keep focussed on the Life, Hope and Joy we find in relationship with God, and with his people.

Life Goes on...

While we have to adjust to a different way of doing things, we are still focussed on worshipping in permissible and safe ways, and connecting with God and each other throughout the week.

Not all our groups are able to run at this time, but we are working to be accessible in as many ways as we can: in person, online and with non-techy options for those without internet access.

We usually have two services running in church on Sundays 9am and 11am (Although 8th November will be only one special service for Remembrance Sunday at 10:15am).

The Church Gathered

Children's groups meet in the hall alongside the 11am Service except on the first Sunday of each month, when we have an All Age Service at 11 with lots of family friendly activities.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, you will need to book to attend our Sunday services, or children's groups.

We've got other things happening during the week for groups where it is possible to do so in COVID secure ways

For more details see inside pages.

GET IN TOUCH

Sunday Services - Part A

The Church gathered

If you can't join us in person, you can view the service live on our YouTube channel at 9am or 11am

<https://bit.ly/SJLHYouTube>

If you want to come in person on Sunday you will need to book. If you have internet access you will need to go to <http://www.sjlh.org.uk/book>, if not, please contact the office.

Communion will normally be the 1st Sunday of each month (9am only) and 3rd Sunday of each month (both services) at this time.

Not techy? Don't worry

If you don't have the tech, or aren't able to use it, we have some other options.

If you don't have internet access, book in to services by phoning the office.

You can still dial-in and listen to the reading and talk from the comfort of your home. As these are now recorded live during our services, we can't put them on in advance, so they will be available from Monday by noon.

Simply dial 01489 665885; the cost is whatever you would normally pay for a local call.



Part B: The Church Dispersed

Join together with others as permitted and discuss the Sunday talk, pray and share together. Try and vary your groups each week to keep it fresh and inclusive. If you haven't found a group for a week, contact the office and we'll try to help.

We hope that many of you are engaging in this part of our service. We've heard of some excellent fellowship that has been happening around this Part B, and we'd love to hear more from you about how it is going?

Have you had a great discussion, understood something new, or just reinforced a deep truth in a new way. Let us know. Testimony is powerful, and positive 'news' so important at this time.

If you've got something good to tell us, drop us an email or call the office.



Don't forget our All Souls Service **1st November @ 6.30pm**. This service is not open to attend in person, but can be viewed via the SJLH YouTube Channel online. <https://tinyurl.com/SJLHyoutube>



While we are all getting used to new things, there are some things that remain the same. We will, as always take time to remember those who died fighting for our freedom, and those who left family and home to serve their country. Lest we forget!

Our Remembrance Service will be 10:15am on Sunday 8th November.

You will need to book to attend in person, but the service will be live-streamed for those unable to attend in person.



Brian Draper: Ode to Autumn

Brian has been leading autumn walking retreats for over a decade. They're such a good way to find rhythm and restoration within God's Creation!

In this strange year, we can't meet up in the same way. So, he has recorded an audio retreat for you to use personally instead: 75 minute's worth of immersive material, flowing with autumnal reflections, 'practice' and space!

Follow the simple instructions on his website to download this retreat to your smart-phone or tablet - then pop your headphones in, and go for a guided reflective walk! (And if you can't get outside, why not listen from the comfort of your home - look out the window, or use your imagination.)

We want to encourage you to sign up for this. You can do that by making a donation of any amount on his website:

<https://www.briandraper.org/autumn-audio>

Ode to Autumn: Follow Up

We feel that this is another opportunity for us to unite together and listen for the voice of God for this church. You can take it step by step, listen all in one 'go' or make an afternoon (or a day) of it by taking things more slowly, and pressing pause when you need space to reflect further, or to pray, or to be still

And so, while you can do this any time over the next couple of weeks, we are going to host a ZOOM discussion and feedback session to share what God has spoken to us on **Saturday 14th November at 7.30pm.**

To join the ZOOM meeting go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/zoomautumn>
Meeting ID: 856 3032 2533
Passcode: 245676



Advent Windows - 2020

Advent Window Trail – Sign up today!
This advent 2020, St John's is planning an advent window celebration to engage our community in a COVID-safe way in celebrating life, hope & joy at Christmas. The event, running continuously through advent, consists of 23 homes each decorating a window for the general public to see.

Each day a new window is unveiled, and a map of dates and locations will be produced.

We need 25 volunteers to make an advent window at home (or one of two at church) and unveil it on a particular day in December.

Each house taking part will be given a theme to work with and should produce a well-lit window with the theme and number written within it.

If you want details of how to follow the trail visit our website in December and download your map of the route.

We will share a guidance and inspiration leaflet for those taking part to help you make your window so it looks attractive and in keeping with other windows.

Along with each window display, there will be a sandwich-board (which we will provide) moving from house to house, containing a poster for our Christmas services and hopefully, flyers inviting folk to join us at these. There will also be a reminder for viewers to observe social distancing and the 'rule of six'.

The sandwich-board will go at the end of your driveway or somewhere visible from the pavement for one day only and then will need to be taken to the next home (you can do that or we can do it if required).

If you'd like to take part, all you need to do is fill out the online application (link below) to choose your window's date and then make a display relating to the theme associated with that day using the guide.

<https://tinyurl.com/adventwindows>

For more info email mike@sjlh.org.uk or visit the website

<https://www.sjlh.org.uk/adventwindows>

Christmas



Christmas plans are going to be different this year, but there are some things that never change!

Hebrews 13:8 says that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

We need to look for the positive in every way we can at times like these. It may be different, and we may not be able to do as we would wish, but it is an opportunity to reach out to others and show the consistent love of God to those around us.

Maybe think about donating extra items to the basic bank (c/o Waypoint Church).

What about inviting someone on their own to join you for Christmas lunch if we are still able to meet in homes.

Be creative and think of permitted ways to show God's love at this time when people may feel the restrictions harder than usual.

Due to the fluctuations in COVID legislation, these service details may be subject to change.

To comply with current legislation and guidance **you are required to book** for our Christmas services if you intend to come to attend in person. Places will be limited, so don't leave booking to the last minute or you may be disappointed. As our services are popular with the community too, if you arrive without a booking, you may not be able to come in if capacity has been reached.

Booking for a service will open one week beforehand.

This year, we also ask that you and your family attend only one Christingle or Carol Service to allow as many people as possible to participate in person at the church.



Sunday 29th November

09:00 Church Gathered*
11:00 Church Gathered*
18:30 Advent Service

Sunday 6th December

09:00 Church Gathered Holy Communion*
11:00 Church Gathered (ALL AGE)*

Sunday 13th December

09:00 Church Gathered*
11:00 Church Gathered*

Sunday 20th December

09:00 Church Gathered Holy Communion*
11:00 Church Gathered*
16:00 Traditional lessons & carols*
18:00 Traditional lessons & carols*

Christmas Eve

14:00 Christingle*
15:30 Christingle
17:00 Christingle
19:30 The Christmas Story with carols
21:00 The Christmas Story with carols
23:00 Church Gathered Holy Communion*

Christmas Day

09:00 Church Gathered Holy Communion*
10:30 Christmas Service (ALL AGE)*

Sunday 27th December

09:00 Church Gathered*
(Note: No 11am service this week)



*These services will be live-streamed on
the YouTube Channel
<https://tinyurl.com/SJLHyoutube>

Personal Announcements

Congratulations to Beverley Arthur who has successfully completed the Light Blue Level of Voices for Life, awarded by the Royal Society of Church Music.

Bridget, daughter of Janet Bullen emailed this week to let us know that her mother has died. Janet and John were active here during the era of Revs Carpenter, Chatfield and Evens. The funeral will be held in Surrey where she last resided.

Thank you from Gavin

Dear St John's,
I wanted to send you a little note to say a BIG thank you for the wonderful send off. It is so difficult saying good-bye in the current circumstances, but I was very touched by the services, the cards, the notes and the videos. I will miss you all.
Thank you also for the very generous gift - our house in Wimborne has finally sold and we are planning to buy a "fixer-upper" as our new family home. We will put your generous gift to good use in the renovations.
I am hoping soon to secure a new tree for the grounds of St John's as my good-bye gift to you. Thanks to Mike S. for his help with this. Watch this space!
With my love + prayers, Gavin

Your notices here!

If you have some exciting news or an event to share with everyone for next month's sheet, get in touch with Abi by the 20th of the month so we can include it.

office@sjlh.org.uk



Venerable Wisdom

God has a plan for your life! The enemy has a plan for your life!
Be ready for both and wise enough to know the difference.



What is the PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the governing body of the church. It works closely with the vicar and church wardens.

The PCC meets monthly, usually on the second Monday. The churchwardens are each elected for a period of a year and the elected members of the PCC for a 3 year term.

The current members of the PCC, elected at our APCM on 20th September, are listed on the right.

A link to the approved Minutes will be sent out in the relevant weekly e-mail.

The PCC and Churchwardens are there as a point of contact, so please don't hesitate to get in touch with any PCC member if you have any questions, comments, feedback or encouraging words to share with us.



PCC Members

Ian Andrews
 Chris Bacon (Deanery Synod Member)
 Paul Barrow
 Emily Collings
 Rita Dodd
 Jim Dodd (co-opted)
 Naomi (Nims) Fisher
 Adrian Head
 Sarah James
 Michelle Lineros
 Linda Miatt (Churchwarden, vice-Chair)
 Mike Moritz (unelected but eligible as our Curate)
 Rachel Munn
 Trevor Pritchard (Churchwarden, Chair)
 Robin Thomas
 Alex Thompson (Treasurer, co-opted)
 Kate Tucker (serves on PCC as Deanery Synod Member)
 Mark Tucker (serves on PCC as Deanery Synod Member)

Non-Voting Members

Liz Morgan (PCC Secretary)
 Abi Elshaw (Operations Manager)
 Hazel Foster (CFTL)

Prayer & fasting

We had some really good feedback from our first Vacancy Prayer & Fasting.

Here's just some of the comments we got back. Also, on the next page are some 'snippets' from one person's journal for the week. It's a great idea to write things down as God speaks to you.

"I felt strongly this week that I was hearing the word 'togetherness' I don't know if it meant together with each other or together with Jesus or perhaps both."

"Praying 'the love of God' for me brought to mind actively doing living things for our fellow parishioners, letting them know we are thinking of them and wanting to ensure they feel part of the body of Christ."



"I just thought I should email you having prayed and fasted this week focusing on the Grace. Your leaflet on this was helpful."

If you have anything to add, please send it to the office as it is encouraging to hear what God is saying, and also beneficial as we put together the parish profile and look for the next vicar.

Prayer & Fasting Reflections

One of our church family recorded a daily thought as she went through the time of prayer and fasting. She shared her thoughts and we were so encouraged, that we asked if we could share these with you.

Perhaps these echo what God has spoken to you personally, or perhaps these encourage you to share with us your own reflections from that time of fasting. If so do let us know as we want to unite together as we listen for God's direction at this time.

Day 1 - A gift of generosity - generosity towards each other. To show love in action. It is so easy to be asking God for gifts, but are we using the ones he has already given us?

Day 2 - Putting Jesus first. Ask ourselves is this what Jesus wants? What would Jesus do? Does Jesus like the way we speak, act, our thinking? We are not to have our own agenda.

Day 3 - God certainly does not bless other churches more because they do things better. It's about people using their gifts.

As a church do we talk about God's love as individuals? Is it preached about?



Day 4 -The church I imagine is being a community that is on the same wavelength, using the gift of the Holy Spirit. We need to rely on the Holy Spirit.

Day 5 - The fear I feel for this vacancy is people thinking too much about the past, though the past can be helped with the future.

Day 6 - Our aim is of the same, to bring others to Christ and to show God's love as we go about our day. We are diverse, which is natural, but we need to listen to each other, to be gentle with each other.

The Next Step

Now we are “in vacancy”, there are steps we must follow to appoint our new vicar. Having held what is known as the “Section 11” meeting, the PCC appointed us (Trevor and Linda, your churchwardens), as St John’s two lay representatives to lead the process; and, with a team of 6 parishioners, working in pairs [Rob Thomas with Rachel Munn , Nims Fisher with Sarah James, Paul Barrow with Rachael Kairis], we are currently compiling a questionnaire which will be sent soon to everyone, as part of our consultation. This will be primarily by email, but we shall also send hard copies to those who we know are not digitally connected and will do our best to ensure that everyone on our parish roll has the opportunity to give feedback. We are looking forward to receiving this feedback which will help us in writing the ‘Parish Profile’.

What is the Parish Profile? This is the key document, in terms of how we go about finding, selecting and appointing our next vicar. It has two principal aims: It is the first picture a possible new priest will get of our parish; and it is the PCC’s guidance note for the parish representatives, when considering a candidate.

If you have any questions please contact us, or one of the PCC members .

We thank everyone for your continued support and prayers.

Trevor & Linda
Churchwardens



A Prayer for the Vacancy

Heavenly Father,
During this vacancy, guard and grow our Parish as we serve you together in this period without a Vicar.

Lord Jesus, we know that you have plans for us and that these plans are always good. We ask now that you will help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers and visitors.

Holy Spirit, please guide those who are seeking the right person for us, and those who are seeking the right place for their ministry, that together we may discover your way for the future and see your kingdom grow.

Amen